

*[English]***Industrial Safety and Disaster Prevention Plan**

*367. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has drawn up Rs. 300 crore industrial safety and disaster prevention plan;

(b) if so, whether a five month feasibility study in this regard with experts from India and abroad is currently under way for which Japan has provided Rs. 2.40 crore along with a grant of Rs. 100 crore from the Dutch;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the World Bank has shown keen interest in the project; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the World Bank has agreed to provide help and assistance in implementing the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Feasibility studies have been initiated for the formulation of an Industrial Safety & Disaster Prevention Project. The studies are being financed by a grant of US \$ 910,000 from Japan and a grant of US \$ 150,000 from the Netherlands administered by the World Bank.

Malfunctioning of LPTs in the Country

*368. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Low Power TV transmission centres are not working properly in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether most of the equipment in these transmission centres are found to be out of order;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to set the equipment right;

(e) whether the Government propose to install High Power TV transmissions in all parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Most of the Low Power TV Transmitters (LPTs) in the country are functioning well in terms of equipment. However, several of them are not in a position to give full time transmission for other reasons. About 200 LPTs are not giving full time transmission due to non-availability of staff.

(c) and (d) Most of the equipment provided at LPTs are functioning normally and to ensure their smooth functioning, routine as well as periodical maintenance is carried out regularly. In case of failure of any equipment, it is attended to immediately to avoid breakdown in service.

(e) and (f) Whereas 58 High Power TV Transmitters (HPTs) spread over the various parts of the country are presently at various stages of implementation, 71 HPTs are envisaged to be set up during Ninth Plan subject to availability of resources, other infrastructural facilities, requisite manpower and inter-se priorities.

Amendment in Section 125 of Cr. PC

*369. SHRI JAYSINHI CHAUHAN:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. PC) 'to make the father to pay maintenance charges to his children living with the divorced Muslim wife' as per Supreme Court Judgement of July, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Regularisation of E.D. Employees**

*370. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Extra Departmental Employees working in Post Offices all over the country are rendering commendable services;

(b) if so, whether the Government would contemplate to regularise them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The ED Agents are providing satisfactory service enabling the department to provide postal facilities in rural areas where a full time departmental post office is not justified for want of workload.

(b) Extra Departmental Agents are governed by non-Statutory Extra Departmental Agents (Conduct & Service)